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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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# Legislative Assembly Office

1996 annual report



Alberta



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
ALBERTA

March 26, 1997

To the Honourable the Speaker of the  
Legislative Assembly of Alberta

I have the honour to submit the eighth annual report of the Legislative Assembly Office, as required by Standing Order 109, for the calendar year ended December 31, 1996.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W.J. David McNeil".

W.J. David McNeil  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly



# Legislative Assembly Office

## 1996 Annual Report



Alberta

Prepared for the Honourable Stanley S. Schumacher  
Speaker  
Legislative Assembly of Alberta





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## Overview

### 1996: New Challenges, New Initiatives

#### Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

W.J. David McNeil

Several key technological changes were a highlight of the year for the Legislative Assembly Office. The new Legislative Assembly management information system (LAMIS) had a major impact on many LAO staff, since it changed the procedures for processing accounting, payroll, inventory, and gift sales data. Other innovations included a new telephone system and an Internet home page. All were designed to enhance the delivery of services and to improve communications within the Legislative Assembly Office and to the public. At the same time, the LAO recruited several new staff, worked through a new estimates subcommittee process for the Assembly, and provided support services for a heavy spring sitting and a rare summer sitting.

After a three-month trial run, LAMIS was fully implemented on April 1. Implementing the financial system, Dynamics, demanded a dedicated team effort by all the staff involved. It required the transfer of all budget, accounts payable, inventory, revenue, and other financial data from the old system to the new. To break in the new system, staff ran it parallel with the old system for the first three months of the year, in effect processing all data twice to ensure that problems were worked out before implementation.

Human resource services implemented the new payroll component of LAMIS, the Legislative Assembly payroll system (LAPS). The impact of the change from the old system to the new was far reaching and required staff to review and revise a number of processes and procedures. As well, public information branch staff implemented the new point-of-sale system, which automated sales processing and inventory records.

Information systems services, of course, played a lead role in the LAMIS implementation. By the end of the process the LAO gained responsibility for all its own financial and payroll

activity except for actually writing the cheques. In the process, the LAO achieved significant savings and efficiencies.

As well, the creation of the Legislative Assembly worldwide web page ([www.assembly.ab.ca](http://www.assembly.ab.ca)) enabled the LAO to provide more accessible information to the public at less cost. Information available on the home page includes *Hansard*, Bill status, the *Citizen's Guide*, student programs, and member profiles. Another technological change was the new Centrex telephone system, which enhanced communications at the Legislative Assembly and established voice mail for all staff.

While these changes were occurring, the Fourth Session of the 23rd Legislature opened February 13 and continued to May 23. The Assembly reconvened for two short but demanding weeks in August to implement changes to electoral boundaries. In all, the Assembly sat for 61 days and 44 evenings for a total of 366.5 hours.

Table officers handled numerous procedural issues during session. When, for the first time since 1979, subcommittees of supply were established to deal with estimates, a question of privilege was raised alleging a threat to members' freedom of speech. As well, two separate questions of privilege were raised during the year regarding threats to members.

Legal services was affected by staffing changes when Earl Evaniew returned to private practice. To fill the vacancy, Shannon Dean was hired in August. Recruiting for this and other staff changes was a significant responsibility during the year as over 700 applications were received and reviewed.

The public information branch underwent an organizational change as its administration and visitor services sections merged. In December visitor services moved to new offices beside the interpretive centre, thereby helping it become a more cohesive unit and enabling staff to provide better service to the public. All the while, gift

shop sales continued to increase and staff attracted more special events and exhibits to the Legislature, thereby helping to make the site a more attractive spot for visitors.

The Legislative Assembly Office hosted a very successful conference for the Canadian Clerks-at-the-Table in August. Staff from all

branches teamed up to provide a warm and memorable welcome for our guests.

Finally, a new Lieutenant Governor was installed this year at a special ceremony held in the Chamber. On April 17 the Hon. H.A. "Bud" Olson became Alberta's 14th Lieutenant Governor.



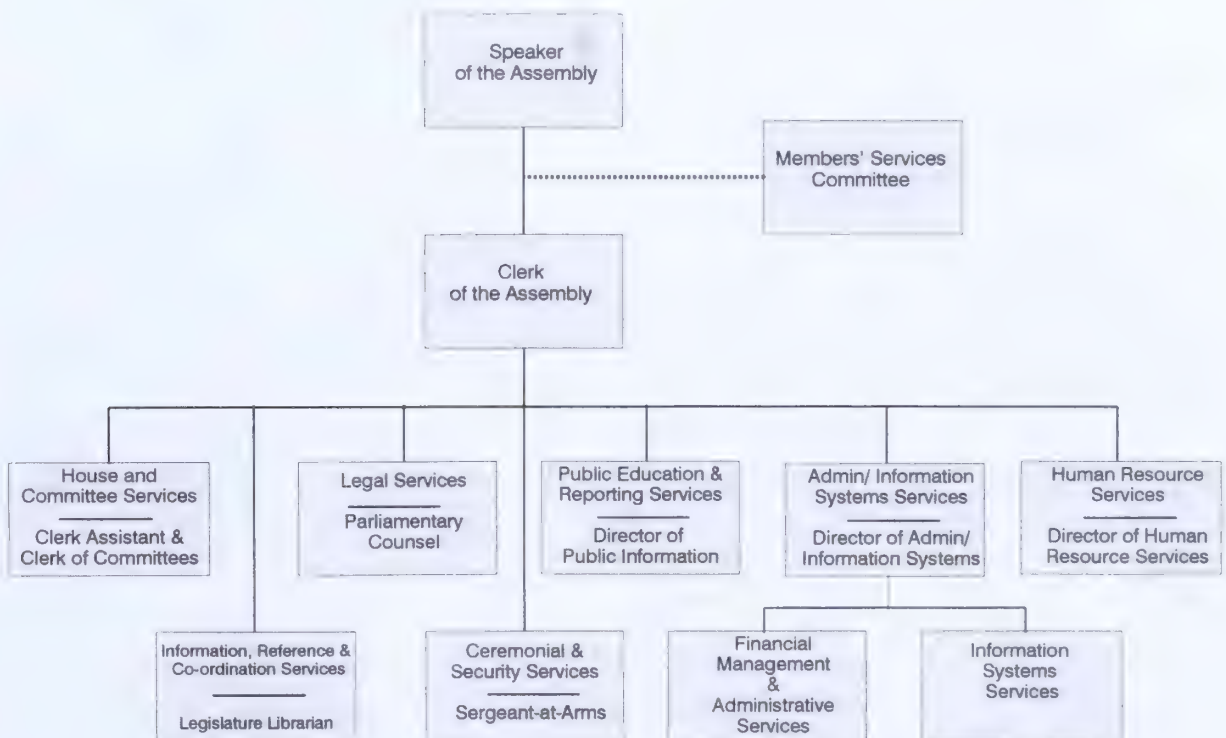
## Legislative Assembly Office

### Purpose Statement

Within the traditions of parliamentary democracy as constitutionally established in Alberta, the Legislative Assembly will:

1. Support members in carrying out their roles as elected representatives of the people of Alberta.
2. Support the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in carrying out the duties of office.
3. Record the proceedings and maintain the records of the Legislative Assembly.
4. Inform and educate the public on behalf of members and the institution of Parliament.
5. Support the Assembly in protecting its institutions and privileges.
6. Support the exchange of information and ideas among Legislatures.
7. Support the officers of the Legislature as required.

### Organization Chart





## *Function Statements*

### **Clerk of the Legislative Assembly**

- Provides advice and support to the Speaker and members on procedural and administrative matters
- Manages the Legislative Assembly Office
- Acts as Secretary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Alberta branch

### **House and Committee Services**

*Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees*

- Provides procedural advice to the Speaker and members of the Assembly
- Manages support services to legislative committees
- Maintains Assembly records
- Manages production of Assembly documents

### **Information, Reference, and Co-ordination Services**

*Legislature Librarian*

- Provides information and reference services to the Legislative Assembly
- Co-ordinates a number of co-operative programs among Alberta government libraries

### **Legal Services**

*Parliamentary Counsel*

- Provides legal services to the Speaker, members of the Assembly, and staff of the Legislative Assembly Office
- Drafts Assembly documents, including private members' Bills and motions
- Provides legal services to the Chief Electoral Officer and Ethics Commissioner

### **Ceremonial and Security Services**

*Sergeant-at-Arms*

- Provides security services to the Legislative Assembly
- Provides page and messenger services to the Assembly during its sittings

### **Public Education and Reporting Services**

*Director of Public Information*

- Produces the official report of what is said during meetings of the Legislative Assembly and its committees
- Welcomes visitors and provides public education services for the Legislative Assembly
- Provides public information about the Legislative Assembly
- Prints and distributes Assembly publications

### **Human Resource Services**

*Director of Human Resource Services*

- Provides human resource management services to the Legislative Assembly

### **Administrative/Information Systems Services**

*Director of Administrative/Information Systems Services*

- Provides financial and administrative support to the Legislative Assembly
- Provides electronic data processing and office automation services to the Legislative Assembly
- Acts as co-ordinator for the administration of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act as it pertains to the LAO
- Provides records management services to the LAO

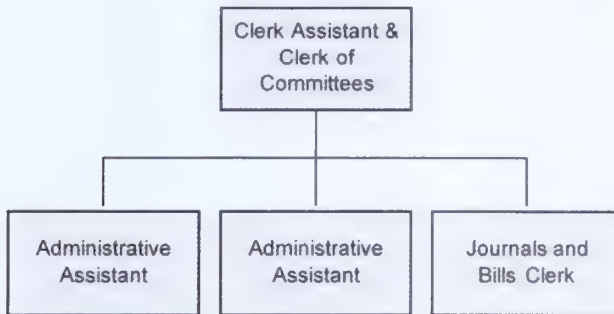




## House and Committee Services

### Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees

Louise J. Kamuchik



Although personnel changes added to the workload this year, the branch was able to respond with a high level of service. A new Lieutenant Governor was installed, and the retirement of Alberta's Ombudsman was announced. The branch was very busy with committee meetings, with the second round of hearings for the Electoral Boundaries Commission held in the spring. Voluntary tablings were at record levels again this year due to the continued effect of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. In addition, a reorganization of the records vault meant that several hundred documents could be transferred to the Provincial Archives.

The spring sittings began on February 13 and recessed on May 23, and the fall sittings ran from August 14 to August 27. Altogether, the Assembly sat for 61 days, 44 of which included evening sittings, for a total of 366 hours, 27 minutes, a 12 percent increase over last year's 326.5 hours.

Changes occurred in the composition of the Assembly this year as well. Mr. Nick Taylor resigned his seat on March 7 after being summoned to the Senate. Following a by-election in the constituency of Redwater on May 21, Mrs. Mary Anne Balsillie was sworn in as the MLA. Mr. Andrew Beniuk, MLA for Edmonton-Norwood, who had sat as an Independent in the Assembly since the previous June, joined the Progressive Conservative Party on May 23. The

breakdown of members by party affiliation at the end of June 1996 was 54 Progressive Conservatives and 29 Liberals.

The Hon. H.A. "Bud" Olson was installed as Alberta's 14th Lieutenant Governor on April 17. He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1957, re-elected in 1962, 1963, 1965, and 1968, and subsequently summoned to the Senate on April 5, 1977, where he served in a number of portfolios until his appointment as Alberta's Lieutenant Governor. He succeeded the Hon. Gordon Towers, who had served in the role since March 11, 1991.

The departure of a key staff member left a gap in our complement for several months. David Gillies, who had served as *Journals* and Bills clerk since October 1990, resigned in July to become executive assistant to the Government House Leader. Florence Marston did an exceptional job producing the Votes and Proceedings and the Order Paper and keeping things together during the short but feverish August sitting. The branch was fortunate to have Jo-An Christiansen fill the position in November. Jo-An came from the Legislature Library, where she had worked for the previous six years.

Three private members' public Bills received Royal Assent during the Fourth Session: the Limitations Act, Highway Traffic Amendment Act, 1996, and Medical Profession Amendment Act, 1996. A total of nine private members' public Bills have received Royal Assent since the changes made to the Standing Orders in 1993.

Following the 1993 memorandum of agreement which facilitated free votes in the Assembly, cross-party voting took place on four recorded votes on private members' public Bills and one private member's motion. Of particular interest, recorded votes indicated that cross-party voting also occurred on four occasions at various stages of government-sponsored Bills.

The active standing committees in 1996 were the standing committees on Public Accounts (14 meetings), Members' Services (two), Legislative Offices (four), and the Alberta Heritage Savings

Trust Fund Act (eight). As well, the Select Special Committee on Parliamentary Reform met once.

Bill 32, the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act, was introduced on April 18 and received Royal Assent on May 24. Once proclaimed, the Bill reduces the membership of the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act from 15 to 9. The committee's mandate will also change from reviewing the Provincial Treasurer's report on the trust fund's investments to reviewing and approving annually the business plan for the heritage fund. It will receive and review quarterly reports on the operation of the fund, approve its annual report, review the yearly performance of the fund, and report to the Legislature. It will also hold public meetings with Albertans on the investment activities and results of the heritage fund.

The 1995-96 Electoral Boundaries Commission, established on June 28, 1995, to review Alberta's electoral boundaries, held a second round of public hearings throughout Alberta in the spring and released its final report on June 21. The commission met five times and held seven public hearings. The Electoral Divisions Act, introduced on August 14, incorporated the recommendations of the commission. The Bill proposed the amalgamation of two rural constituencies in southern Alberta and gave a new constituency each to Edmonton and Calgary. Amended with only a few constituency name changes, the Bill passed and received Royal Assent on September 3. The new boundaries take effect once the next provincial

election is called.

Designated supply subcommittees were again established by the Committee of Supply. Subcommittees of the Committee of Supply were also established under Standing Order 57(1), a process not used since 1979.

Voluntary tablings increased from 634 in 1995 to 790 this year. On two separate occasions 78 documents were tabled in the Legislature in one day, a new record for the Assembly. On the other hand, petitions presented in the House decreased dramatically from 217 in 1995 to 96 in 1996.

The branch continued its practice of co-operating with other jurisdictions, responding to numerous surveys and questionnaires on various Assembly and committee procedures. As well, the Clerk Assistant continued to provide administrative support to the proposed Alberta branch of the America Region of the *Assemblée internationale de parlementaires de langue française*.

In August Alberta hosted the annual professional development seminar of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada. Table officers from all provincial jurisdictions, the territories, the House of Commons, and the Senate met to discuss issues related to parliamentary procedures and administration. Delegates from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia also attended.

A news release on December 13 announced the retirement of Alberta's Ombudsman, Mr. Harley Johnson, as of March 31, 1997. As a result, the Legislative Offices Committee initiated the search process for a new Ombudsman.

## Comparative Statistics

		1996 Fourth Session 23rd Legislature	1995 Third Session 23rd Legislature
Sitting Days	Spring	54	48
	Fall	7	12
Evening Sitzings	Spring	39	34
	Fall	5	8
Government Bills	Introduced	48	53
	Received Royal Assent	48	48
Private Bills	Introduced	5	10
	Received Royal Assent	5	8
Private Members' Public Bills	Introduced	25	27
	Received Royal Assent	3	3
Government Motions	Debated	25	30
	Agreed to	23	29
	Withdrawn	0	0
Private Members' Motions	Placed on Order Paper	81	86
	Agreed to	5	9
	Defeated	10	4
	Withdrawn	2	1
Written Questions	Placed on Order Paper	23	40
	Accepted	15	32
	Rejected	4	0
	Withdrawn	0	0
Motions for Returns	Placed on Order Paper	35	91
	Accepted	19	32
	Rejected	10	43
	Withdrawn	1	1
Committee of Supply (days)	Main Estimates	20	20
	Heritage Savings Trust Fund	0	0
	Capital Fund	0	0
	Lottery Fund	1	2
	Supplementary	4	2
Designated Supply Subcommittees (hours) (Environmental Protection, Family and Social Services, Health, Education, Economic Development and Tourism)		20	20
Tablings and Filings	Tablings Required by Statute	82	160
	Voluntary Tablings and Filings	790	634
Petitions (excluding Private Bills)	Presented	96	217
	Read and Received	46	158
Members' Statements		93	90
Ministerial Statements		20	16





## Information, Reference, and Co-ordination Services: Legislature Library

### Legislature Librarian

Lorne Buhr

In 1996 the library enhanced access to its collections, prepared for the automated control of periodical and newspaper check-in, and increased service via the interlibrary loan service. Work began on a major project concerning Alberta's newly approved provincial electoral districts. The branch also continued with the long-term project of microfilming Alberta's weekly newspapers.

Early in the year Alberta libraries gained access to the Union List of Serials database through DialPac, helping interlibrary loans of related materials from database participants. Discussions are currently under way to include the union list data in the National Library's AMICUS database, thus contributing to resource sharing on a national scale.

Due to ongoing government consolidation and downsizing, a substantial amount of material was received again this year from government libraries. Staff started work on organizing the material and inputting holdings information on approximately one thousand new titles. Once the information is entered into the Union List of Serials database, the material may be used to fill interlibrary loan requests.

The library continued to produce and enhance the *Directory of Alberta Government Libraries and Resource Centres* and the *Alberta Government Libraries' Newsletter*. The information and reference services section produces the monthly *Selected Periodical Articles* and *New Books in the Library*. The latter is made available to Alberta government department and agency staff, thus assuring wide usage of the library's books and documents. The branch is adding to the number of users within the Assembly who receive these lists electronically.

As the pace of change slowed in Alberta government departments and agencies, the use of the library by this group stabilized. The branch continues to serve the offices of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Auditor General,

and the Ethics Commissioner. It was predicted that the advent of automated dial-in to our catalogue would cause circulation to increase, but the increase was a modest 1 percent. Overall information and reference inquiries decreased. Some of the decrease in information requests could be attributed, at least partially, to the ability of individuals to do their own catalogue inquiry on-line. The Legislature Library continues to be used by those who wish to access an excellent collection of Canadian and Alberta documents, books on public issues, and Alberta newspapers. Its unique materials serve as a provincial resource.

The library emphasizes service to its primary users: the MLAs, their staff, and staff of the Legislative Assembly Office. A lot of the work, including the monthly lists of new materials, centres on alerting them to new and hopefully useful information sources. The Internet has become part of this work as well. In preparation for the new Legislature which will come in after the expected provincial election in 1997, the library is creating constituency information packages which will be given to each MLA of the 24th Legislature.

Co-operative government library services' staff also continued to support the Alberta Government Libraries' Council by serving on a number of committees and providing additional secretariat support and technical advice in the wake of continued downsizing.

A significant increase occurred in the Alberta government libraries interlibrary loan service. The number of requests serviced surpassed last year's by 38 percent.

The library's long-term project of microfilming Alberta weekly newspapers continued. During 1996 the library completed microfilming pre-1950 newspapers from Bawlf, Bruce, Clairmont, Clive, Erskine, Gadsby, Hardisty, Hay Lakes, and Stirling. The Olds newspapers from 1906 to 1992 are presently being filmed. The Olds project is an example of cost-sharing, as it is being done in partnership with the Olds Historical Society and the Glenbow Institute.



As well, arrangements were completed for transferring the master copies of the library's microfilm masters collection to the Alberta Records Centre. Storage conditions at the centre more closely adhere to preservation standards and provide for greater security.

Library staff attended the Alberta Association of Library Technicians' annual conference in Edmonton and the 12th biennial conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada which took place in Toronto.

Caucus staff continued to use the library

orientation and training sessions. Students from the Grant MacEwan Community College first year library technology program came for their group sessions. The branch continued the practice of hosting a practicum student from Grant MacEwan as well as one from the University of Alberta's School of Library and Information Studies.

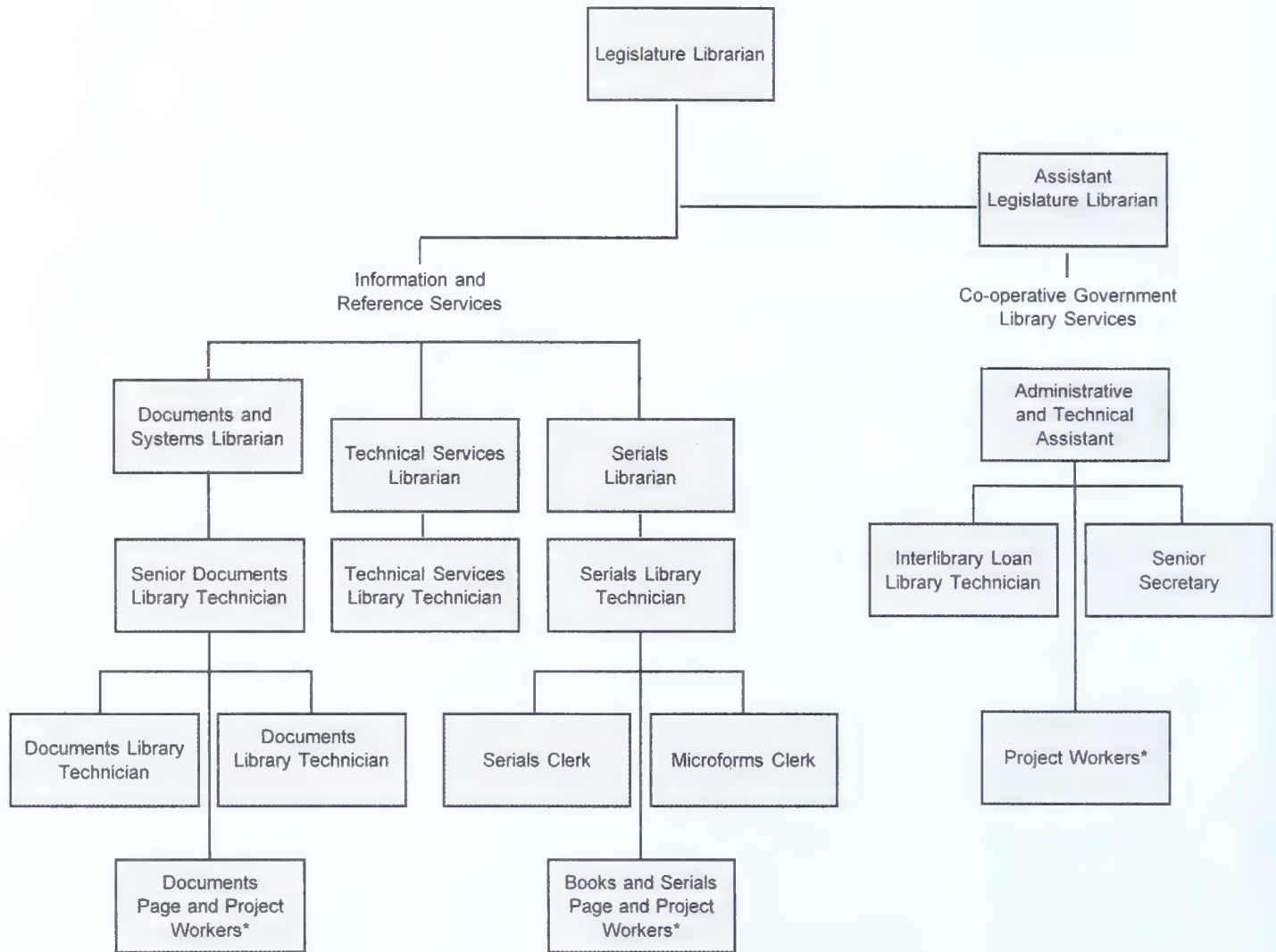
Toward the end of the year Jo-An Christiansen, documents library technician, left the library to take a new job as *Journals* and Bills clerk in the Clerk's office. Jo-An worked in the library for a little over six years.

## Comparative Statistics

	1996	1995
<b>Information and Reference Services</b>		
Total number of volumes (by conventional count)	268,231	258,249
Circulation (items borrowed for use outside library)	7,215	7,135
Number of requests requiring less than 15 minutes to complete	7,231	7,636
Number of requests requiring 15 minutes to one hour to complete	1,001	1,080
Number of requests requiring more than one hour to complete	66	157
<sup>1</sup> Number of DialPac inquiries of our on-line catalogue	2,062	
<b>Co-operative Government Library Services</b>		
Titles in Union List of Serials in Alberta government libraries	12,950	10,771
Number of requests serviced by the Alberta government libraries' interlibrary loan services	3,888	2,814
<sup>1</sup> Number of requests by Alberta government libraries for consultation or reference	54	49

<sup>1</sup>New categories in 1996

*Legislature Library  
Organization Chart*



\*indicates part-time or wage staff

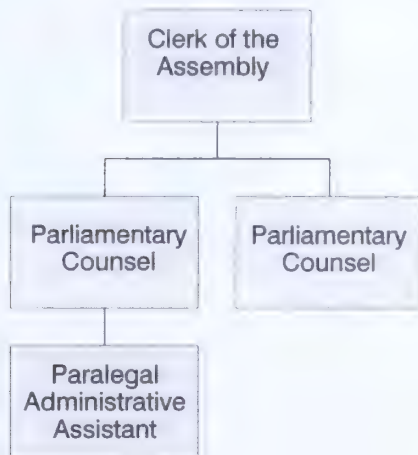


## Legal Services

### Parliamentary Counsel

Robert Reynolds

Shannon Dean



Like 1995 this was a year of change for personnel in the Parliamentary Counsel office, with the departure of both Frank Work and Earl Evaniew and the commencement of Shannon Dean as Parliamentary Counsel. It was also a dynamic year for procedural issues. The establishment of subcommittees of supply for the consideration of estimates brought up a question of privilege concerning members' freedom of speech. Two other questions of privilege were raised during the year regarding threats to members. As well, counsel continued to draft private members' Bills, provide support to the Standing Committee on Private Bills, and assist in drafting private Bills, some of which were quite complex in nature. As always, counsel provided legal and procedural advice to the Speaker, members, and the LAO, and provided support to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer when requested.

Frank Work completed his one-year secondment to the office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. In June Mr. Work resigned from the position of Senior Parliamentary

Counsel to continue as Director/General Counsel with that office. Earl Evaniew, who had been seconded from private practice for one year to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Work, decided to return to his law firm. Both individuals made valuable contributions to the Legislative Assembly and will be missed by members and staff.

While Rob Reynolds continued as Parliamentary Counsel, a vacancy was created by Frank Work's resignation and Earl Evaniew's departure. After a competition held during the summer, Shannon Dean accepted the position. With degrees in commerce and law, Ms Dean brings to the position a well-rounded background which includes experience in private practice and government service. Ms Dean's arrival in early August meant that the table officers were at full complement for the sitting that commenced on August 14.

The lengthy spring sitting of the Fourth Session of the 23rd Legislature taxed the resources of the table officers. There were 45 government Bills introduced in the spring sitting and three in the fall sitting. Unlike other years, all government Bills were passed by the Assembly.

Twenty private members' Bills were introduced in the spring sitting and another five in the fall sitting. Three of the Bills were passed by the Assembly. One particularly interesting case was Bill 214, the Victims of Domestic Violence Act. On August 21 the Bill was considered by the Committee of the Whole. The sponsor of the Bill introduced numerous amendments. The committee agreed to a motion that the Chairman "do now leave the Chair," which meant that the committee did not report to the Assembly and the Bill was dropped from the Order Paper.

Parliamentary Counsel continued to provide support to the Standing Committee on Private Bills. The office also drafted private Bills with the petitioners. In 1996 five private Bills were introduced in the Assembly. Some of the Bills were quite complex in nature. Bill Pr. 1, the Alberta Wheat Pool Amendment Act, 1996, allowed the Wheat Pool to change its share structure. The committee heard representations for



this Bill on two occasions. At the March 26 hearing there were representatives of the Wheat Pool, the Wheat Pool's solicitors, representatives of two government agencies, and one intervenor. It was the largest number of people to appear before the committee since the 1994 hearing on the proposed Gimbel Foundation Act.

One of the more interesting procedural issues during the year concerned the process for the consideration of the estimates by the Committee of Supply. In January the Government House Leader told the Select Special Committee on Parliamentary Reform that the government would present a motion to establish subcommittees of supply when the Committee of Supply considered the estimates for the 1996-97 fiscal year. Subcommittees of supply had not been formed since 1979. Under the Standing Orders each day that a subcommittee of supply meets constitutes a day of estimates' consideration. Accordingly, when two subcommittees meet on the same day, it counts as two days of estimates' consideration. Under the Standing Orders, the main estimates can be considered by the Committee of Supply for no more than 20 days.

When the motion was introduced in the Committee of Supply on February 26, a question of privilege was raised alleging that the concurrent meetings of the subcommittees violated a member's freedom of speech. That same day the Speaker ruled that there was no prima facie question of privilege as the Standing Orders provide for the establishment of the subcommittees and there was precedent for the subcommittees to meet concurrently.

There were two separate questions of privilege concerning threats to members. On March 19 one such question was raised regarding a letter from an Edmonton lawyer to the Leader of the Official Opposition. In the letter the lawyer outlined his understanding that the opposition intended to discuss his client in the Assembly. The letter stated that his client would pursue legal remedies if any statements were defamatory. On March 21 the Speaker ruled that the letter

constituted a threat to the member and as such was a prima facie question of privilege. The Assembly passed a motion referring the matter to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing unless the lawyer apologized within five sitting days. A letter of apology was tabled in the Assembly on March 28, which ended the matter.

A similar question of privilege was raised by the Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti concerning a letter he received from the Member for Calgary-Buffalo which stated that he would take further action if the member did not withdraw certain comments made in the Assembly about the opposition's views on amendments to the Individual's Rights Protection Act. On May 23 the Speaker ruled that the letter constituted a threat and there was a prima facie question of privilege. The Member for Calgary-Buffalo apologized in the Assembly that day.

In an effort to increase the awareness of parliamentary law and privileges, Parliamentary Counsel agreed to several public speaking engagements. Mr. Reynolds addressed a meeting of sections of the Canadian Bar Association and gave other talks to public interest and university groups.

The Legislative Assembly Office hosted many visitors from across Canada and around the world. Parliamentary Counsel assisted in welcoming and briefing the groups. This included participating with the other table officers in briefing delegations from South Africa and Ukraine on Canada's constitutional framework and the privileges and procedures of the Alberta Legislative Assembly.

Parliamentary Counsel assisted in hosting the Clerks-at-the-Table Professional Development Seminar held in Edmonton in early August. Mr. Reynolds presented a paper at the conference on recent cases of privilege in Alberta. He made another presentation on privilege to the annual meeting of the Association of Parliamentary Counsel in Canada held in Victoria in August. Frank Work served as president of the association and co-chaired the meeting.

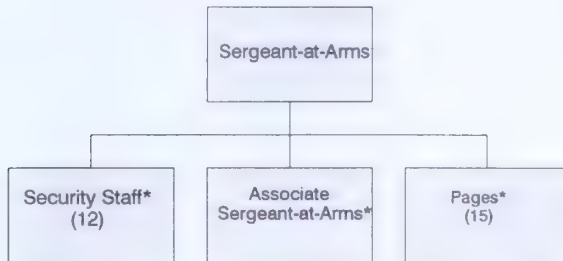




## Ceremonial and Security Services

### Sergeant-at-Arms

Brian Hodgson



\*indicates part-time or wage staff

The year saw ceremonial and security services involved in the ongoing security initiatives developed as a result of the comprehensive security review done in the previous year. The branch made a number of presentations designed to improve the security awareness of LAO staff and the general public. It also supported a number of ceremonial events and continued to develop and enhance the legislative page program.

A major security initiative was the construction of a permanent Legislative Assembly security staff pass desk on the fourth floor of the Legislature Building. Designed to blend in with the architectural themes in the building, the pass desk incorporates several improvements to the communications system and to the personal security of security staff. Technical upgrading of the security systems in the Chamber and precincts continued and is expected to be completed in early 1997. In conjunction with the Department of Justice protection services, the branch also prepared and delivered a security awareness program to all LAO employees. These initiatives helped the branch provide improved security to members, staff, and visitors. In 1996 over 9,800 people visited the Chamber during a session of 61 days, 44 evenings, and 29 committee meetings.

As always, planning and conducting ceremonial events was a significant part of the

branch's responsibilities. The branch was involved in the installation of Alberta's 14th Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. H.A. "Bud" Olson, on April 17.

On a cool, wet Sunday in May, the wartime contribution of Canada's merchant navy was recognized in a ceremony on the south lawn of the Legislature grounds. Joining to unveil a plaque and dedicate a book of remembrance were the Hon. H.A. "Bud" Olson, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker Stanley Schumacher, Minister of Municipal Affairs Tom Thurber, Mr. Laurence Decore, representing the Official Opposition, Mr. John Loney, Member of Parliament, and Captain (Retired) Hugh Hallett, merchant navy. There were in excess of 150 spectators and participants.

In October the branch once again scripted the presentation of Remembrance Day poppies. The Royal Canadian Legion's Alberta and Northwest Territorial Command made the presentation to the Lieutenant Governor, the Deputy Speaker, and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Chamber was once again the setting for six youth parliaments, and the branch was responsible for security. Tuxis, Alberta Debate and Speech Association, Forum for Young Albertans, Parlement Jeunesse de l'Alberta, Francophonie Jeunesse de l'Alberta, and the University of Alberta Model Parliament conducted mock parliaments on weekends and holidays.

With human resource services the branch interviewed 21 prospective pages. It planned and conducted orientation/training and a professional development program. As part of the Speaker's Cup Page Speech Competition, the 14 pages each prepared a five- to seven-minute speech on "How can social, economic, political, and parliamentary programs involve young people in development?" Greg Harlow won the competition.

Security issues for constituency offices continued to be a priority. The branch made 56 visits to constituency offices throughout Alberta. Thefts were reported at two constituency offices in 1996.

As part of the branch's efforts to maintain

and exceed the high level of security it provides for members, staff, and visitors, the branch continued to improve its ongoing liaison with the Edmonton Police Service, the RCMP, and other safety and security organizations. It also made presentations to numerous civil service orientation tours, MLAs and their guests, and school groups.

With the assistance of Parliamentary Counsel the branch developed a new policy on the service of legal documents within the precincts.

Finally, branch staff attended the 16th annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Sergeants

at Arms in Victoria, British Columbia. Of particular interest was the issue of the impact the Internet is having on the accessibility of information relating to explosive substances and the fabrication of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). In practical terms, this has led, in one western Canadian police service, to a 500 percent increase in IED response calls in under 12 months. New security issues like this highlight how ceremonial and security services must continue to be responsive to changing security needs.



## **Public Education and Reporting Services: Public Information Branch**

### **Director of Public Information**

Gary Garrison

Initiatives undertaken to attract the public to the Legislature began to bear fruit this year with a significant increase in special event traffic at the site, despite a downscaled Christmas lightup ceremony. Later in the year a partial reorganization and a consolidation of visitor services offices near the interpretive centre helped to put the branch in a better position to address the future and to improve service. During session the creation of new subcommittees of supply doubled the *Hansard* workload for several weeks. As well, two full-time employees resigned during the year. One of the vacancies was addressed through the reorganization; at year's end plans were under way to fill the second one.

Following the visitor services co-ordinator's resignation in March, the director covered the position himself for three months and filled it with an interim appointment through the summer. On October 1 the administration and the visitor services sections were combined under the leadership of Jackie Edwards. Position duties of everyone in the area were reviewed and a number of adjustments made. To bring staff in the section closer together, visitor services staff vacated offices on the fourth and fifth floors of the Legislature Building and moved into new space next to the interpretive centre on December 2.

In the summer of 1995 a staff person had been located in the Rotunda part-time to greet unscheduled visitors. The flow of visitors during other times was heavy enough to justify someone there full-time, so in 1996 staff were rotated through the greeter position in one- to two-hour shifts from May to September. This provided better service to the public and helped take pressure off security staff as well.

In September Edmonton Tourism organized a special promotion trip to Vancouver to inform tour bus companies of the numerous tourist attractions and other facilities in Edmonton. A representative of the branch participated in this

venture along with representatives of several other Edmonton attractions, hotels, and service companies. At a time when tourism is becoming more and more competitive, this promotion is a means of ensuring that the Legislature retains its status as a major tourist attraction. The Vancouver promotion is a key to this effort because tourist traffic from the Orient is growing rapidly, and virtually all of it enters Canada through Vancouver.

In order to make the Legislature Building more hospitable for our major groups of offshore visitors, the branch produced tour outlines in Japanese, French, German, and Mandarin (Chinese) and made these available to tourists.

A key part of the branch's goal to educate the public about the Assembly involves convincing the public that the Legislature belongs to them and they are welcome here. In 1996 staff facilitated numerous special events at the Legislature, including the Klondike Days breakfast, Halloween-o-rama, the kickoff for the International Day to Eliminate Racial Discrimination, a special aviation day, a staff craft sale in November, and a breakfast meeting of the Greater Edmonton Visitor and Convention Association in December. The branch also provided support for the annual conference of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada. The conference included a dinner in the pedway outside the interpretive centre, special tours for delegates and their families, and a display in the conference hotel of articles on sale in the gift shop.

Gift shop retail sales continued to increase. The point-of-sale software installed in the spring helped to maintain inventory levels and sales records. It also made transactions and pricing easier and quicker.

After a great deal of planning and negotiating, staff secured a variety of aviation displays for the interpretive centre and pedway. This included a complete 1920s vintage biplane, more than a dozen operating scale-model aircraft, a 1930s style single-winged aircraft, and numerous other items



contributed by museums and associations from across the province.

Visits by school groups constitute a major portion of the visitors to the site. To serve this group of clients better, the branch made some changes to the way information is distributed to schools. Previously staff mailed out information about school programs to every school in the province. Unfortunately, information sent out this way often did not reach the teachers it was intended for. This year the branch placed an ad in the ATA newsletter to let teachers know about our programs and to tell them they could phone for written material or look it up on our web site.

The *Citizen's Guide* was also made available on the Assembly's worldwide web home page. Revisions were begun on the *Citizen's Guide* during the year to incorporate several components of the old *Teacher's Guide*. Publication of the new edition is expected in 1997.

In the summer two new panels were installed in the interpretive centre. Using cartoon graphics, they illustrate the process Bills and budgets go through in the Assembly. Printed versions of these panels were produced and made available to teachers, MLAs, and the public.

In the fall the publications officer left the employ of the Assembly. Before her departure she and a STEP employee completed a new Tour Guide Manual. This manual provides a wealth of reference material for tour guides and others dealing with the visiting public, enabling them to answer a multitude of questions about the building and about Alberta history, politics, and the parliamentary process.

In February the Assembly decided to create four subcommittees of supply, thereby doubling the *Hansard* workload for several weeks. In order to keep up with the demand for transcripts, staff worked many hours of overtime during the week and on Saturday. Staff rose to the challenge and were able to provide all subcommittee transcripts to MLAs prior to each subcommittee's report to the Committee of Supply near the end of the

estimates process.

The August session was short but challenging in that it occurred at a time when many staff would normally have been taking holidays. Toward the end of the year a competition was held to recruit new input editors for the 1997 session. New staff were selected in December, and plans were made to train them in January 1997 in anticipation of a February opening for session.

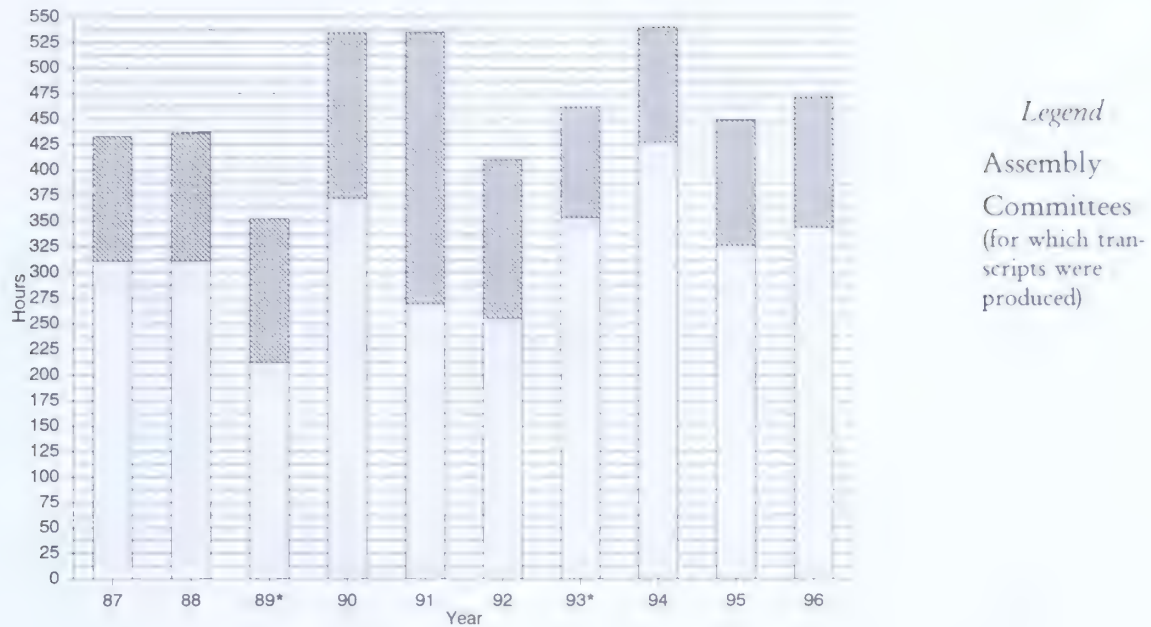
The director attended a conference of *Hansard* editors in Toronto in August. The objective of the conference was to reorganize the Hansard Association of Canada. A new statement of purpose was drafted, a slate of officers nominated, and an annual fee proposed. In the fall the proposals were fine-tuned and approved. The director was elected secretary-treasurer.

The director assisted the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly in developing specifications and procedures for letting the *Yukon Hansard* contract. He and other PIB staff began work on this project in June. The contract is expected to be awarded early in the new year. One of the spinoffs of this work has been that creating a test for Yukon bidders has helped *Hansard* staff develop an objective standard for monitoring the quality of work done by individual *Hansard* staff. Several other *Hansard* editors across Canada expressed interest in adapting the test standards developed for the Yukon contract and using them to measure staff performance as well.

In the spring the director drafted a questionnaire to gather information about the television broadcasting practices in parliaments across Canada and submitted the results to the Members' Services Committee in November. At that time the committee decided that the television broadcasts would continue through the 1997-98 budget year. Members' Services accepted the proposal to broadcast the program of question period using the facilities of Alberta's five cable television systems, all of which had expressed interest in carrying it.

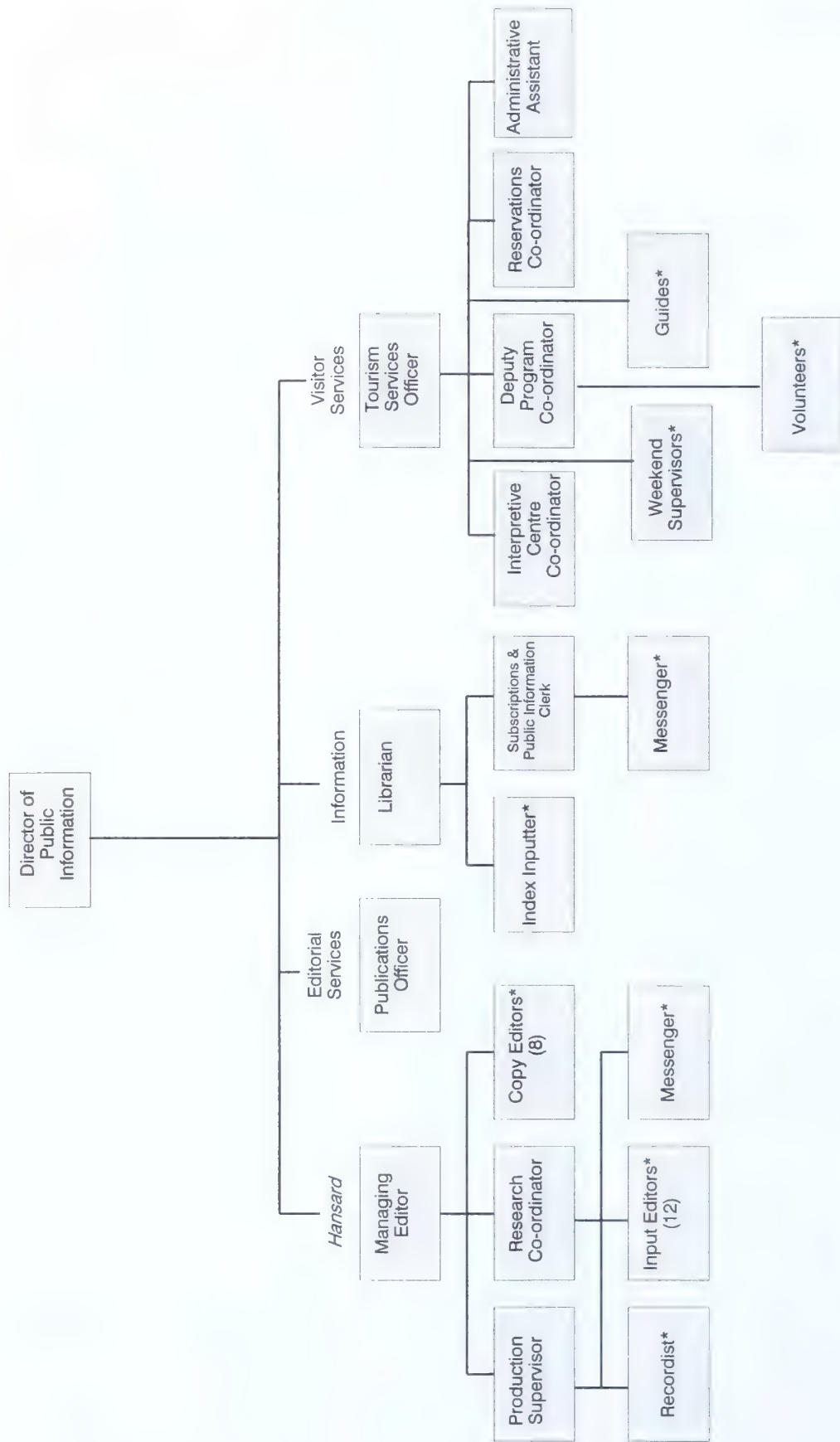


## Assembly and Committee Meeting Hours



\*indicates an election year

# Public Information Branch Organization Chart



\* indicates wage or part-time staff

## Comparative Statistics

	1996	1995
<b>Visitors to Legislature and Interpretive Centre</b>		
Visitors on tour	41,245	40,600
Special events	8,335	3,131
Casual	31,608	23,775
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,188</b>	<b>67,506</b>
<b>Tours and Programs</b>		
Regular tours	2,493	1,020
Tours including Premier's office	17	18
VIP tours	13	31
Educational programs	261	221
Civil service orientation	4	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,788</b>	<b>1,298</b>
<b>Gift shop sales</b>	<b>\$65,824</b>	<b>\$60,129</b>
<b>MLA promotional items</b>	<b>\$100,581</b>	<b>\$96,531</b>
<b>Gallery seats reserved</b>	<b>9,803</b>	<b>9,706</b>
<b>Volunteer hours</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>1,222</b>
<b>Public Information and Subscriptions</b>		
Public information calls	8,597	11,491
Congratulatory scrolls	2,769	2,635
Paid subscriptions		
<i>Daily Hansard</i>	246	263
<i>Hansard</i> bound volumes	55	31
Bills, Votes	229	263
<i>Journals</i>	459	480
<i>Hansard</i> on-line (new category)	69	71
Complimentary subscriptions		
<i>Daily Hansard</i>	233	313
<i>Hansard</i> bound volumes	91	91
Bills, Votes	903	1,113
Order Paper	354	483
<i>Hansard</i> index and on-line inquiries	141	169
<b>Assembly Statistics</b>		
Sitting days	61	60
Evening sittings	44	42
Sitting hours	366.5	326.5
<i>Hansard</i> pages	2,464	2,319
Subcommittees of Supply		
Meetings reported	19	6
Meeting hours	43.4	17
Transcript pages	314	146
Committee meetings reported	44 <sup>1</sup>	69 <sup>1</sup>
Committee meeting hours	83 <sup>1</sup>	125.51 <sup>1</sup>
Committee transcript pages	692 <sup>1</sup>	1,036 <sup>1</sup>
Other meetings reported	2	0
Other meeting hours	2	0
Other meeting transcript pages	14	0
<b>Total <i>Hansard</i> and committee pages</b>	<b>3,484</b>	<b>3,501</b>

<sup>1</sup>includes Electoral Boundaries Commission hearings

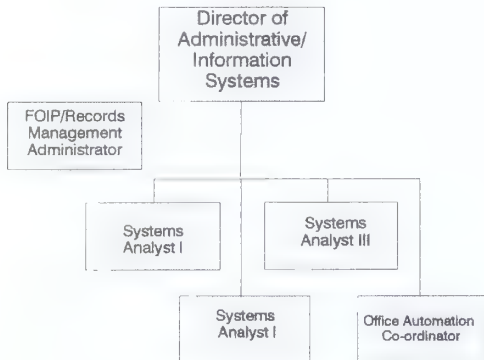




## Administrative/Information Systems Services: Information Systems Services

### Director of Administrative/ Information Systems Services

Bill Gano



Information systems was very busy this year, due mostly to the implementation of several in-house systems and the need to upgrade both the network and the systems in constituency offices. The branch also implemented a new telephone system for the LAO, started up an Internet home page for the Assembly, and continued to support the electronic data processing (EDP) requirements of all offices. Two full-time staff resigned during the year, and as a result the already heavy workload of the remaining staff increased until the positions could be filled.

Work continued on testing, installing, maintaining, and upgrading the Legislative Assembly management information system (LAMIS). The most significant effort this year was implementing this system. All financial and payroll functions are now run on the in-house system, and information is transmitted to the government system via interface files. This project was extremely intensive, requiring major process and procedure changes. It was successfully completed in a very short time frame for a project of this magnitude. The project successfully integrated the systems with little disruption of normal business. The Assembly network's keyword search capability was also upgraded to

include keyword searches for government program information (SPERG), committees and commissions, and Canadian phone books.

The branch provided a variety of EDP and office automation services to the Chief Electoral Officer's office, as well as hardware and software support to the office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Network servers and workstations as well as remote workstations continued to be maintained and upgraded to ensure that technology remains current. The EDP needs of the constituency offices were considered, and upgrades and other support was provided.

As well, the new Meridian Centrex telephone system was successfully implemented this year. The main new feature of the system is that it establishes voice mail capability for all offices.

The branch continued to respond to the computer requirements of the LAO by purchasing, installing, moving, and maintaining computer terminals, printers and software.

The Legislative Assembly's worldwide web home page on the Internet was implemented and expanded this year. Information available on the home page includes *Hansard*, Bill status, the *Citizen's Guide*, student programs, member profiles, and links to other provincial and federal government home pages.

Information systems also continued to implement additional components for the on-line integrated library system.

Staff training continued to be a priority for the branch as numerous word processing, spreadsheet, E-mail, freedom of information and protection of privacy (FOIP), and financial systems training sessions were conducted.

The long-term EDP strategic plan was updated and budget priorities were established. The EDP committee also continued to meet to advise on managing EDP resources and to identify future requirements.

Finally, the branch continued to address issues related to FOIP, records management, financial management, and LAO policies and procedures.

## *Comparative Statistics*

	1996	1995
<b>Equipment in place:</b>		
Constituency workstations	109	105
Constituency printers	99	100
LAN (local area network) workstations	150	167
LAN laser printers	53	56
Dedicated library workstations	16	20
Servers	16	19
Scanners	3	3
Notebook computers	57	50
<b>Equipment replaced:</b>		
Obsolete workstations	65	71
Obsolete laser printers	13	11
<b>Training:</b>		
Person-days of training	89	306



## ***Administrative/Information Systems Services: Financial Management and Administrative Services***

### **Manager of Financial Management and Administrative Services**

Jacqueline Breault

Nineteen ninety-six was a busy and challenging year full of changes in technology, in services, in knowledge and skills, and in staff. The highlight of the year was the branch's participation in the Legislative Assembly management information system (LAMIS) project. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, the system was implemented successfully. It was also a tumultuous year with regard to staff. Three people left the branch, and three new staff replaced them. Staff duties also changed dramatically because of the impact of LAMIS. The Centrex telephone system upgrade was another major accomplishment for the branch. These initiatives, on top of the branch's already demanding workload, made for a very busy and exciting year.

The LAMIS project occupied the branch for much of the year. From January 1 to March 31, the new Dynamics accounting program ran parallel with the old DFS-CFS system. This required staff to make duplicate entries of all financial transactions and to check monitoring reports to ensure data was processed and recorded properly. During this period, staff learned the Dynamics program, fine-tuned the processes involved, and worked out the kinks in the new system. Staff from the accounting firm of Deloitte and Touche helped with training, problem solving, and enhancements to the system. To help the branch through the transition period, temporary staff were hired to file documents and perform data entry.

April 1 was the official start-up date for full implementation of Dynamics. Staff successfully used Dynamics to process year-end accruals and associated payments for 1995-96 and began processing payments for the 1996-97 fiscal year. Staff entered 1996-97 budget data as well as nonfinancial information for reports and monitoring and developed monthly reports for clients, Alberta Treasury, and the accounting

assistants. They also processed accounts payable, inventory, revenue transactions, and budget adjustments. The branch set up a bank account to enable the Legislative Assembly Office to maintain its own internal accountable advance system. As well, financial information from the payroll system was integrated directly into the general ledger. In addition, LAO managers received training on Dynamics so they could enter their own budget information on the system.

All branch staff worked extremely hard to make the transition to LAMIS happen successfully. They participated in numerous project meetings with representatives of other branches as well as with the vendor. They devoted much energy to learning the new system, double-entering financial information for the first three months of the year, brainstorming, problem solving, and creating new ways of handling work using the new system. This project gave staff the opportunity to work more closely with human resource services, information systems services, and the public information branch and to understand their operations better. Although Dynamics has been in place for nine months, the transition was still continuing by year's end. One of the final steps at the end of the year involved meetings with a principal from the Auditor General's office to ensure that all the new financial management processes meet the necessary standards for public accountability.

Because of the introduction of Dynamics and other streamlining efforts as well as some new responsibilities transferred from other areas of government, changes needed to be made to the distribution of duties in the accounts unit. By year's end, all accounting assistants handled a cross-section of constituencies, caucuses, LAO branches, and major accounts instead of specializing in a single area. As well, human resource services took on responsibility for all fee-for-service contracts.

Staff changes added to the already hectic pace of the year. After a long tenure with the branch, accounting assistant Betty Byron retired at the end of June. On August 19, accounting assistant



Darren Berwick left the branch to take a position with human resource services, and at the end of August, accountant Robert Wolfe left to pursue opportunities in the private sector. Three capable new staff joined the branch to fill these vacancies: accounting assistants Bev Kristel and Michelle Neely and accountant Benedict Dy.

As part of the effort to standardize the telephone systems for all provincial public service agencies, the LAO converted to the new Meridian Centrex telephone system early in the year. Branch staff inventoried all equipment, lines, and services and participated in training and helping LAO staff to program and use their new telephones. Branch staff also ensured services were properly billed and that wiring, programming, and related transition work was completed satisfactorily.

The branch also investigated options in electronic commerce, including purchasing cards, on-line standing offers and surplus equipment lists, electronic funds transfers, on-line purchasing, and electronic billing. The first real opportunity to test these options is with Telus Bill 2000, whereby telephone billing for consolidated accounts is available on computer disk as well as on paper. This system allows for very flexible reporting and the eventual entry of data directly from the disk to the financial system. The result should be fewer data entry errors, less paper, and easier reporting procedures.

The branch continued to support various activities such as the 1996 Clerks-at-the-Table Conference, providing administrative support as well as helping to host delegates, their companions, and their children at the Legislature and at West Edmonton Mall. Staff also continued administrative support for the Electoral Boundaries Commission. When Mr. Nick Taylor resigned his seat in the Legislature, branch staff assisted in the transition before, during, and after the by-election of Mrs. Mary Anne Balsillie in the constituency of Redwater.

With Bill Gano and Cheryl Scarlett, the manager traveled to Calgary to provide orientation

and information sessions to central and southern Alberta constituency staff. The process was repeated in Edmonton for central and northern Alberta constituency staff. The feedback from these sessions was positive. Plans were made to continue this practice, which should prove even more valuable after the general election expected early in 1997.

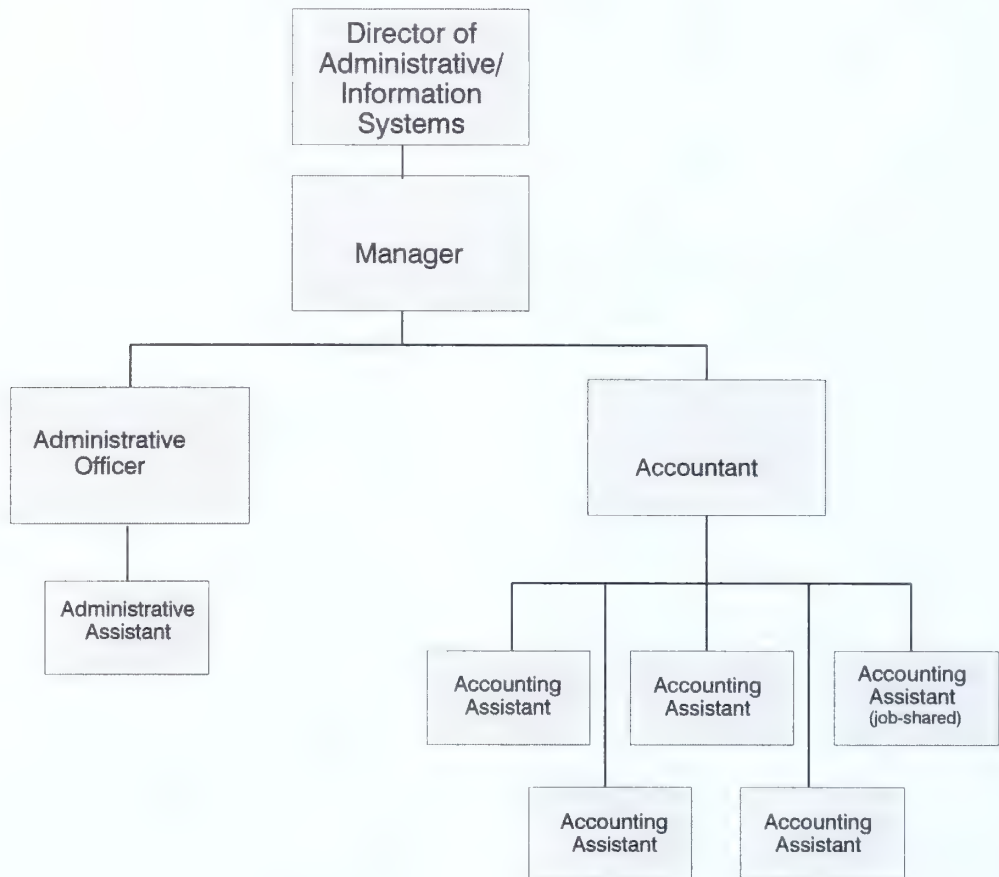
The branch's regular activities continued as well. After the Members' Services Committee approved the 1996-97 budget in January, the branch produced and distributed budget information to committee members and Alberta Treasury and loaded figures into the management systems budget preparation system. Even though fiscal year-end was even more hectic than usual because of two accounting systems running parallel, staff processed and submitted the year-end reports on time for the LAO, the office of the Ethics Commissioner, and the office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Anticipating a general election, administration staff and Parliamentary Counsel reviewed the constituency office lease form to ensure compatibility with current legal and administrative practice. The dissolution policy was also reviewed and updated.

In preparation for the Members' Services Committee meetings in late November, branch staff provided information on insurance coverage and MLA postage and mailings and made proposals regarding an upgrade of constituency office telephone service in 1997 and the impact of the new electoral boundaries. As usual, the branch prepared the 1997-98 budget information for the committee to examine. The manager also participated in a management committee studying pay-for-performance issues at the LAO.

As well, the branch provided input into development of the new LAO policy manual. Finally, staff continued to monitor and manage LAO assets and coordinate insurance and risk management services and to provide the highest level of service possible to MLAs and their staff, employees, and clients.

*Financial Management and  
Administrative Services  
Organization Chart*



## Comparative Statistics

	1996	1995
Invoices coded and data entered – 19A, Support to the Legislative Assembly	N/A <sup>1</sup>	17,662
Invoices coded and data entered – 19E, Office of the Ethics Commissioner	N/A <sup>1</sup>	155
Invoices coded and data entered – 19F, Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner	N/A <sup>1</sup>	125
Constituency offices, moved	3	4
Constituency offices, new	0	1
Constituency offices, closed	3	3
RITE lines installed or moved	3	4
Mail processed	17,041 <sup>2</sup>	18,454
Departmental vendors established/changed/deleted	N/A <sup>1</sup>	982
Direct purchase orders issued	195	207
MLA purchase orders processed	5,400	5,300
Other requests processed	2,700	2,710
Special requests processed	200	202
Revenues:		
<i>Hansard</i> subscriptions	\$ 35,916.41	\$ 44,380.92
Votes and Proceedings and Bills subscriptions	20,949.44	17,236.30
Private Bills	1,000.00	2,000.00
Gift Shop	65,824.46	60,128.51
Library	16,140.48	22,107.38
Other	12,598.54	12,391.34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$153,339.81</b>	<b>\$158,244.45</b>

<sup>1</sup>On April 1, 1996, the Legislative Assembly management information system went on-line. As the new Dynamics financial system does not process or track transactions in the same manner as the old DFS-CFS system, statistics would not be comparable from 1995 to 1996.

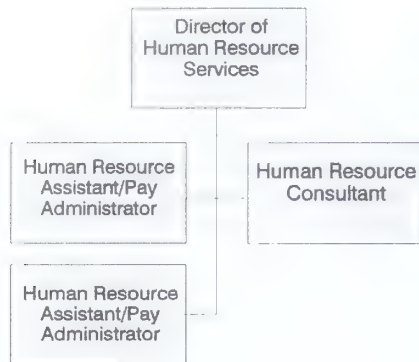
<sup>2</sup>Consolidated telecommunications billing began in October 1996, resulting in a decrease in individual pieces of mail processed.





## Human Resource Services

**Director of Human Resource Services**  
Cheryl Scarlett



The branch worked through several major changes in 1996 and was very active in all aspects of human resource administration. The new Legislative Assembly payroll system (LAPS) was implemented this year, giving human resource services direct control of all aspects of payroll administration. The branch was also very involved with planning and preparing to implement the new First Choice benefits package for all employees. In addition, the branch played a leading role in recruiting for positions in all areas of the Legislative Assembly Office, processing over 700 applications. Through all the changes, the branch continued in its commitment to enhance services to its clients.

LAPS is locally written payroll software that was customized to suit the needs of the Legislative Assembly Office. It was implemented on April 1 as a component of the Legislative Assembly management information system. The impact of the changeover was far reaching and required reviewing and changing a number of processes and procedures. All internal processes, forms, roles, and responsibilities were assessed and revised as necessary. As well, all cheques and direct deposits

were calculated internally from April 1 onward. In addition, payments to and reconciliations for third-party suppliers such as Revenue Canada, the Pension Board, and benefits administrators are now done internally. Procedures for processing garnishee orders were also implemented. Furthermore, liaisons were established with all government departments, Executive Council, Payment Systems Corporation, personnel administration office, and payroll and benefits contacts.

In addition to providing a customized payroll system for the LAO, human resource services took responsibility for payment of all MLA remuneration, including pay for service as cabinet minister and other government service, effective April 1. This resulted in more efficient and effective service to MLAs, who since then have received all their remuneration from a single source.

Implementation of LAPS involved a three-month parallel run. As well, it included transferring all Legislative Assembly payroll information from the government payroll system to the in-house system for all members, constituency office staff, caucus staff, Legislative Assembly staff, and the Ethics Commissioner and Information and Privacy Commissioner staff on March 31, 1996. On this same day, all members and staff were terminated from the government system and recommenced on LAPS.

While implementing and refining the new payroll system was a primary project this year, human resource services continued its ongoing employer and customer service commitment to MLAs, caucuses, constituencies, and the Legislative Assembly Office.

MLA administration was a major activity during the year. When a member resigned in the spring and a by-election was held, human resource services assisted the former member with payroll termination and the new member with commencement and provided help regarding her constituency office staffing needs. The branch also dealt with the payroll implications for a number of ministerial and standing policy committee chair

transfers. The branch continued to be the primary contact for MLA remuneration and benefits issues and to administer the extended benefits program for former members.

As part of its commitment to enhance services, team development options were developed and proposed. As well, the organization of the public information branch was reviewed and restructured. The branch continued to provide ongoing assistance to the offices of the Ethics Commissioner and the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Human resource services played a key role in filling vacancies in all areas of the LAO. The amount of staff turnover during the year is evidence that the training staff receive while working for the LAO is a valuable asset to their

careers and to future employers. In addition, assistance was provided to the House of Commons in recruiting for their page program.

Occupational health and safety issues were of prime importance as well. Human resource services developed a plan for improving the ergonomics of the LAO, including both educating staff and using more appropriate furniture and lighting. Workers' Compensation liaison and case management activity increased as well.

Finally, staff of human resource services liaised regularly with the staff of caucus and constituency offices. The branch collaborated with financial management and administrative services and information systems services in delivering formal presentations to staff. This was very effective in promoting good working relationships.



## **Special Events**

### **Installation of Lieutenant Governor**

On April 17 the Hon. H.A. "Bud" Olson was sworn in as Alberta's 14th Lieutenant Governor at a special ceremony held in the Chamber. His Honour's predecessor, the Hon. Gordon Towers, was in attendance, as were Premier Ralph Klein, Speaker Stanley S. Schumacher, Leader of the Opposition Mr. Grant Mitchell, and several other Members of the Legislative Assembly. Senator Joyce Fairbairn, PC, Leader of the Government in the Senate, represented the federal government. The Chief Justice of Alberta, the Hon. C.A. Fraser, administered the oath of office.

### **Merchant Navy Book of Remembrance**

On May 5 a memorial unveiling and dedication of a book of remembrance honouring Canada's merchant navy in war was held on the Legislature grounds. The Hon. H.A. "Bud" Olson, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker Stanley S. Schumacher, Minister of Municipal Affairs Tom Thurber, Mr. Laurence Decore, MLA; and Mr. Brian Hodgson, Sergeant-at-Arms, attended the memorial.

### **Lieutenant Governor Portrait Unveiled**

On June 17 former Lieutenant Governor the Hon. Gordon Towers attended the unveiling of his official portrait at a ceremony in the Legislature Building. The portrait is the work of Alberta artist Tag Kim. Speaker Stanley S. Schumacher presided at the event. Guests included Premier and Mrs. Klein, Mr. Grant Mitchell, Leader of the Official Opposition, Members of the Legislative Assembly, friends, and family.

Following the unveiling, a reception and presentation were held in the Confederation Room.

### **Klondike Days Breakfast**

On July 21, for the second year, the Safeway Klondike Breakfast took place on the Legislature Grounds, outside the interpretive centre. A corps of volunteers, including the Speaker, several other members, and many LAO staff, served pancakes to a thousand guests.

### **Remembrance Day**

On October 28 in the Legislature Rotunda, the Alberta-Northwest Territorial Command of the Royal Canadian Legion presented poppies to His Honour H.A. "Bud" Olson, Lieutenant Governor, and to representatives from both caucuses. On November 7 wreaths were laid on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, veterans, and the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees in memory of civil servants who gave their lives in World Wars I and II and the Korean War.

### **Christmas at the Legislature**

On December 5 His Honour H.A. "Bud" Olson, Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour Mrs. Olson, and Mr. Glen Clegg, MLA, and Mrs. Clegg attended the Legislature Building Christmas musical choir presentation. His Honour and Mr. Clegg each gave a Christmas reading. To conclude the festivities, His Honour turned on the Legislature's Christmas lights for the season.





## **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**

### **Bursary and Essay Contest Winners**

Bursaries are presented annually to a nominee from Tuxis and the Alberta Girls' Parliament to increase interest in parliament among young Albertans. On May 16 Speaker Stanley S. Schumacher presented bursaries to David Watt from Tuxis and to Katy Wilson and Helen Russell, co-winners from the Alberta Girls' Parliament.

A provincewide essay contest is held annually for grade 6 students to encourage a greater awareness of the Commonwealth and the parliamentary system. The topic for 1996 was a general review of a Commonwealth country. The grand prize went to Samantha Roeland from Good Shepherd school in Okotoks for her essay "My Trip to Tanzania."

### **Parliamentary Conferences**

**January 25-28:** The 13th Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference was held in Whitehorse, Yukon, and was attended by Speaker Stanley S. Schumacher; Mr. Don Tannas, Deputy Speaker; Mr. Glen Clegg, Deputy Chairman of Committees; and Mrs. Louise Kamuchik, Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees.

**February 5-7:** Speaker Stanley S. Schumacher, on invitation from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association secretariat, attended the orientation seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure in Barbados.

**April 21-27:** As one of three Canadian regional representatives Speaker Stanley S. Schumacher

attended the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association executive committee mid-year meeting in Cape Town, South Africa.

**July 27-August 2:** The 35th Canadian regional conference of the CPA was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and was attended by Speaker Stanley S. Schumacher; MLAs Mr. Bruce Collingwood, Mr. Rob Renner, Mr. Shiraz Shariff, Mr. Ed Stelmach, Mr. Don Tannas; and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Dr. W.J. David McNeil.

**August 13-18:** Mr. Paul Langevin, Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul, and Mrs. Louise Kamuchik, Clerk Assistant, attended the Assemblée internationale de parlementaires de langue française conference held in Charlottetown, PEI.

**August 19-24:** The 42nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was attended by Speaker Stanley S. Schumacher, MLAs Mr. David Coutts and Dr. Ken Nicol, and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Dr. W.J. David McNeil. Speaker Schumacher also attended the CPA executive committee meeting, which was held prior to the conference.

**October 25-27:** The 20th Canadian regional seminar of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, held in Fredericton, N.B., was attended by Speaker Stanley S. Schumacher; MLAs Mr. Bruce Collingwood, Mrs. Judy Gordon, and Mr. Denis Herard; and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Dr. W.J. David McNeil.



## Interparliamentary Relations

The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Deputy Chairman of Committees, and staff of the Legislative Assembly Office are involved in ongoing liaison with members and staff of other parliaments and with other representatives of foreign countries. In 1996 they hosted the following visitors and events:

		May 22	Her Excellency Veronique Ahoyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Bénin
		June 5	Mr. Pierre Marchal, Consul General of France
January 16	His Excellency Sir Nicholas Bayne, KCMG, British High Commissioner	June 6	His Excellency Bright McBin Msaka, High Commissioner of the Republic of Malawi
January 16	Senator Marcel Prud'homme	June 10	His Excellency Volodymyr Furkalo, Ambassador of Ukraine
January 17	Mr. Pierre Marchal, Consul General of France	June 18	His Excellency Dr. Cheddi Jagan, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
January 31	Mr. Jehudi Kinar, Consul General of Israel	June 27	Delegation of Mpumalanga, South Africa, legislators
February 29	Visit of Ontario legislative interns	July 2	His Excellency Anthony Goodenough, CMG, British High Commissioner
March 7	His Excellency Veijo Sampovaara, Ambassador of the Republic of Finland	July 9	Dr. Baker Abdel Munem, Palestine representative to Canada
March 14	His Excellency Alfred Siefert-Gaillardin, Ambassador of France	July 18	Governor Maximiliano Silerio Esparza, Durango, Mexico
March 19	Mr. Masuji Yamamoto, Consul General of Japan	August 8	Mr. Dominic Ho, Investigator, Hong Kong Commission of Administrative Complaints
March 27	His Excellency Dr. Hans-Guenter Sulimma, Ambassador of the Republic of Germany	September 5	His Excellency Daniel Dayer, Ambassador of Switzerland
April 10	His Excellency Jan Olof Ståhl, Ambassador of Sweden	September 12	His Excellency Johan Løvald, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway
May 8	Mr. Shigeru Ise, Consul General of Japan	September 18	His Excellency Virasakdi Futrakul, Ambassador of Thailand
May 21	His Excellency Mufleh Osmany, High Commissioner for the Republic of Bangladesh		

September 24	Royal College of Defence Studies	October 8	The Honourable Mathews Phosa, Premier, Mpumalanga, South Africa
September 26	Keidanren Business Partnerships Mission, Japan Federation of Economic Organizations	October 16	Canadian/Ukraine Legislative Co-operation Project, Alberta delegation
October 1	The Right Honourable Kim Campbell, Canadian Consul General, Los Angeles	November 19	South African provincial legislative staff
October 1	Dr. Martin Boodhoo, Pro Chancellor, the University of Guyana	November 25	Mrs. Carol Zardetto de la Vega, Consul General for the Republic of Guatemala
October 8	Mr. A.C. deHoog, head of Canadian Embassy in Germany, and Mr. Alfons Schöps, executive director, Partnership of Parliament	November 28	His Excellency John-Alexander Thomoglou, Ambassador of Greece
October 3	His Excellency José Ignacio Moreno León, Ambassador of the Republic of Venezuela		





## ***Former Members of the Legislative Assembly***

In March 1996 the Speaker's office mailed a complimentary copy of the 1995 annual report to former Members of the Legislative Assembly. In December Christmas greetings were sent.

### **Summoned to the Senate**

On March 7 **the Hon. Nick Taylor**, Member for Redwater, was summoned to the Senate. Mr. Taylor served as leader of the Alberta Liberal Party from 1974 to 1988. He was elected to the Alberta Legislature in 1986 and was re-elected in 1989 and 1993. He represented the constituencies of Westlock-Sturgeon and Redwater.

### **50th Anniversary - Alberta Bar**

On October 22 **Mr. Gerard Joseph Amerongen, QC**, former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, celebrated his 50th anniversary since he was called to the Alberta Bar. In 1967 he was appointed Queen's Counsel for the Province of Alberta. Mr. Amerongen was elected in the 1971 general election and was re-elected in 1975, 1979 and 1982. He served as Member for Edmonton Meadowlark until 1986. He was appointed Alberta's 8th Speaker in 1972, and served until 1983.

### **Obituaries**

On February 7 **His Honour Judge Joseph Lucien Maynard** passed away. Mr. Maynard represented the constituencies of Beaver River and St. Albert for the Social Credit Party. He was elected in 1935 and served until 1955. Mr. Maynard served as minister without portfolio 1936-37, Minister of Municipal Affairs 1937-43, and Attorney General 1943-55.

On February 13 **Mr. William Patterson** passed away. Mr. Patterson represented the constituency of Lac Ste. Anne for the Social Credit Party. He was elected in 1959, re-elected in 1963, and served until 1967.

On February 19 **the Hon. Ernest C. Manning** passed away. Mr. Manning was first elected in 1935 and served until 1968, representing the constituencies of Calgary, Edmonton and Strathcona East for the Social Credit Party. He served as Provincial Secretary 1935-43 and Minister of Trade and Industry 1935-44.

He was sworn in as Alberta's 8th Premier in 1943. During his term as Premier he also served as Provincial Treasurer 1944-54, Minister of Mines and Minerals 1952-62, and Attorney General 1955-68. In 1970 he was summoned to the Senate and served until 1983.

On April 29 **Mr. Russell James Whitson** passed away. Mr. Whitson represented the constituency of Vermilion for the Liberal Party. He was elected in 1955 and served until 1959.

On May 1 **Mr. Gerrit Joseph Radstaak** passed away. Mr. Radstaak represented the constituency of Strathcona South for the Social Credit Party. He was elected in 1967 and served until 1971.

On December 24 **Mr. J. Allen "Boomer" Adair** passed away. Mr. Adair represented the constituency of Peace River for the Progressive Conservative Party. He was elected in 1971, re-elected in 1975, 1979, 1982, 1986, 1989, and served until 1993. Mr. Adair served as minister without portfolio responsible for Northern Development 1971-75, Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife 1975-79, Minister of Tourism and Small Business 1979-86, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs from February to May 1986, Minister of Transportation and Utilities 1986-92, and minister responsible for the Northern Alberta Development Council 1986-92.

On September 17 **Mr. Bohdan J.D. Stefaniuk** passed away. Mr. Stefaniuk served as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly from 1976 to 1986.



## ***Participation in National and International Organizations***

In 1996 Members, officers, and staff of the Legislative Assembly participated in the following parliamentary conferences, seminars, meetings, and visits:

Alberta Association of Library Technicians conference

Assemblée internationale des parlementaires de langue française, America region

Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada annual professional development seminar

Association of Parliamentary Counsel in Canada conference

Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada 12th biennial conference

Canadian Association of Sergeants-at-Arms 16th annual conference

13th Canadian Presiding Officers conference

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, 20th Canadian regional seminar

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, 35th Canadian regional conference

42nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference

Canadian Parliamentary Association secretariat, orientation seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure

Canadian Parliamentary Association executive committee mid-year meeting

Canadian Legislatures Visitor Services annual conference

Hansard Association of Canada, 24th annual conference



## Summary of Budget Estimates by Account: Legislative Assembly Office

Code	Description	1996-97	1995-96
	<b>Salaries, Wages &amp; Employee Benefits</b>		
711A00	Salaries – Permanent	\$1,588,589	\$1,631,709
711B00	Salaries – Nonpermanent	387,763	374,113
711C00	Wages	1,135,853	1,120,604
711D00	Contract Employees	3,734,004	4,043,215
711E00	Employer Contributions	1,104,575	1,005,289
711F00	Allowances & Benefits	148,903	151,479
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$8,099,687</b>	<b>\$8,326,409</b>
	<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>		
712A00	Travel Expenses	\$1,472,267	\$1,440,562
712C00	Advertising	278,295	181,201
712D00	Insurance	17,900	500
712E00	Freight & Postage	284,847	212,138
712G00	Rental of Property, Equipment & Goods	1,024,346	1,009,697
712H00	Telephone & Communications	637,810	595,078
712J00	Repair & Maintenance of Equipment	51,948	55,555
712K00	Professional, Technical & Labour Services	980,955	794,086
712L00	Data Processing Services	98,900	123,100
712M00	Hosting	126,508	63,865
712N00	Other Purchased Services	35,799	32,330
712P00	Other Materials & Supplies	1,565,730	1,564,455
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$6,575,305</b>	<b>\$6,072,567</b>
	<b>Other Grants</b>		
713X00	General	\$2,560	\$2,560
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$2,560</b>	<b>\$2,560</b>
	<b>Payments to Members of the Legislative Assembly</b>		
715A00	Payments to MLAs	\$6,296,849	\$6,296,262
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$6,296,849</b>	<b>\$6,296,262</b>
	<b>Revenue</b>		
716D00	Fees & Permits	(\$1,600)	(\$1,600)
716G00	Other Revenue	(125,638)	(120,138)
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>(\$127,238)</b>	<b>(\$121,738)</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$20,847,163</b>	<b>\$20,576,060</b>







## **Public Education Materials**

The Legislative Assembly Office has public education materials covering a variety of subjects related to the work of the Assembly. Titles are listed below.

*The Citizen's Guide to the Alberta Legislature* (booklet; \$1.00 including GST)

*The MLA's Apprentice* (video; \$8.95 including GST)

*A Teacher's Guide to the Alberta Legislature*

Legislative Assembly Seating Plan

Legislature Grounds Self-Guided Tour Map

Tourist Brochure

Free tours of the Legislature Building and Interpretive Centre are available through

Visitor Services  
Pedway Mall, Government Centre  
10820 98 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2N6  
(403) 427-7362

For copies of our public education materials or other information about the Legislative Assembly, call our public information number at (403) 427-2826.



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